

Message Text

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43

ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 CCO-00 /012 W

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R 161420Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6567

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, MA

SUBJECT: AIRLIFT OF SURFACE POUCHES

REF: A. DEPT'S A-3531; B. STATE 202124; C. STATE 198284

1. EMBASSY REGRETS THAT TANANARIVE QUOTA EXCEEDED. HOWEVER, ROUGHLY HALF OR MORE OF EXCESS ACCOUNTED FOR BY SPECIAL ORDERS OF GOODS FOR EMBASSY STAND AT DECEMBER CHARITY BAZAAR OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION AND FOR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR CHILDREN OF EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEES. IN VIEW OF LONG LEAD TIME THESE ORDERS WERE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED TO BE MARKED AND SHIPPED "VIA SURFACE POUCH," BUT DEPT IN FACT AIRLIFTED THEM. IN ADDITION, DURING PERIOD WHEN QUOTA EXCEEDED, NEWLY ASSIGNED PERSONNEL TURNED PACKAGES OVER TO DEPT WHICH THEY INFORMED POUCH ROOM EMPLOYEES COULD BE SHIPPED VIA SURFACE IF AIRLIFT QUOTA FILLED BUT THEY ALSO WERE IN FACT AIRLIFTED. DOES DEPT HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW TO AVOID RECURRENCE OF THESE SITUATIONS OF AIRLIFTING OF PACKAGES WHICH CAN AND SHOULD BE SENT VIA SURFACE, IN ORDER TO RESERVE AIRLIFT FOR THOSE PACKAGES, OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL, FOR WHICH THERE IS URGENT NEED?

2. FURTHER FACTOR THAT MAY HELP ACCOUNT FOR EXCESS OVER QUOTA CITED BY DEPT IS FACT THAT SMALL STAFF OF THIS MISSION HAS INCREASED BY 7 AMERICANS SINCE EMBASSY QUOTA ORIGINALLY SET AT 600 LBS BY DEPT IN MAY. PERHAPS IN VIEW OF THIS INCREASE DEPT MAY FIND IT POSSIBLE TO RAISE MONTHLY

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QUOTA FIGURE.

3. EMBASSY IS ALSO TAKING ACTION TO REDUCE EXCESS BY IMPOSING INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY QUOTA, AFTER ALLOWING FOR OFFICIAL MAIL, OF 20 LBS PER AMERICAN EMPLOYEE. EMBASSY IS ALSO SETTING UP SYSTEM FOR MONITORING USE OF INDIVIDUAL QUOTA. HOWEVER, SEVERAL PROBLEMS WILL PERSIST. FIRST, EMBASSY CANNOT PRECISELY PREDICT TURNAROUND TIME ON ORDERS, HENCE SHIPMENT MAY BE CHARGED TO WRONG MONTHLY QUOTA. SECONDLY, EMBASSY CANNOT BE CERTAIN THAT SHIPPERS WILL LABEL SHIPMENTS AS INSTRUCTED, E.E. "SURFACE" OR "AIR." THIRD, ASSUMING EMBASSY GETS PAST FIRST TWO PROBLEMS, PROPER DISPOSITION OF PACKAGES BY OC/P BECOMES KEY FACTOR.

4. ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. AIRLIFT OF SURFACE POUCH IS OF SUBSTANTIAL OFFICIAL PERSONAL BENEFIT TO POST PERSONNEL AND THEIR MORALE -- WE ARE ANXIOUS TO RETAIN IT.
MENDENHALL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TANANA01421
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740260-0127
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740941/aaaabilt.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OC
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. DEPT'S A-3531; B. STATE 202124; C. . STATE 198284
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIRLIFT OF SURFACE POUCHES
TAGS: ACOM, MA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005